

Mass Intentions for the Week

Monday, December 18

8:00 Aidan Gillick
12:00 Ignazio Barone

Tuesday, December 19

8:00 Aidan Gillick
12:00 Fausta Loarca

Wednesday, December 20

8:00 Margaret O'Neill
12:00 Carole Hennessy, Living

Thursday, December 21

8:00 Louise Tuccillo
12:00 Raul R. Ferreira

Friday, December 22

8:00 Mario Deiana Sr. &
Elizabeth Denisco Deiana
12:00 Frank DiMarzo

Saturday, December 23

8:00 Christopher Dalessio
12:00 Thomas J. Bell &
Elizabeth Conaty Bell
5:00 James Breen

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Sunday December 24

8:00 For the People of the Parish
9:30 Antoinetta & Giuseppe Tellone
11:00 Dec'd. Mem's. Semenza &
Fulco Families
12:30 Celia Archer

Vigil Masses for Christmas

Sunday, December 24

5:00 Elizabeth O'Shea
10:00 Jean Silviotti

Bread and Wine

For: James Breen
By: Eileen Breen



Sanctuary Lamp

For: Severio, Mary & Richard
DelVecchio
By: The DelVecchio Family

Please pray for the repose of the soul of
Joan Schneider



From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Parishioners,

Please be as generous as you can in this year's Christmas collection. This is a vital part of not only supporting our Parish in paying our bills but in providing us with funds to improve the programs we already have and implement new ones, so that our Parish may continue to grow and we may better serve all the needs of our Parish family.

God Bless your goodness!
Fr. John

Today's readings continue the preparation theme we heard in the previous two weeks of Advent. But now the focus shifts somewhat to the joy that awaits us in God's coming Kingdom. This Sunday is Gaudete (Latin, "rejoice") Sunday or, as Pope Francis calls it, the Sunday of Joy.

In today's First Reading, the prophet writes about the mission conferred upon him by God—to bring glad tidings to the lowly and to heal the broken hearted—and about the joy he experiences in God who clothes him in justice and salvation. Early Christians appropriated this text to describe Jesus' mission. By virtue of our Baptism in Christ, this ought to be our mission as well. As the prophet suggests, there is no greater joy than doing God's work.

The Gospel presents John the Baptist as the one who testifies or gives witness to the Light who is coming into the world. We can rejoice because he is the Light that darkness cannot overcome! As the story unfolds, we see John testifying on Jesus' behalf before the priests and Levites of Jerusalem and declaring that Jesus is already among them, though they do not recognize him. John declares he is lower than the lowest household servant by comparison to Jesus, the revealer of God. This is cause for great joy!

On the theme of joy, the Church has wisely paired these two readings with a reading from Paul's First Letter to the Thessalonians. Paul admonishes us to always live in joy, praying and giving thanks, because this is God's will for us. Everything we do and say should be inspired by this Spirit as we await the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Report of Parish Giving

Offering 12/10/17 - \$7,331.00

Adults: 447 Children: 63

Offering 12/3/17 - \$7,915.00

Adults: 557 Children: 100

Sign up for ParishPay and have your donations to Sts. Peter & Paul automatically deducted monthly from your checking or savings account or charged to your credit card. It's easy and convenient and helps our parish. Enroll at www.parishpay.com or call (866) 727-4741. We thank you for your support and are grateful to all those who use ParishPay or the envelopes.

**Kindly remember in your prayers
the sick of the Parish**

Betty D'Avi, Ella DiGiovanni, Bobby Gregory, Louise Holly, Betty Lane, Joan Lynch, Annella Maselli, Stephanie Merenda, Sterling Mitchell, Carol Jean Murphy, Maria Scampone, Susan Scarinci, Barbara Schimpf, Theresa Vazquez

**Are you a registered parishioner of
Sts. Peter & Paul and St. Ursula Parish?**

Any new or unregistered parishioners are asked to register as soon as possible. You can register by completing the registration form found in the vestibule of the Church, by visiting our website at stspeterpaulandstursula.org, or in person at the Rectory. Registering helps us to communicate with our parishioners about the many items of importance which arise throughout the year.

Winter Coat Drive

The Men's Club is sponsoring a Winter Coat Drive to benefit those in need in the Mount Vernon community. We are in need of new and gently used adult and children's coats. Donation boxes are located in the hallway in the vestibule of the Church. The drive will end Monday, December 18th.

Christmas Stockings for the Needy

The Confirmation Candidates are collecting the following items for distribution to the Bowery Mission in Lower East Manhattan. Please consider donating the following items: deodorant, toothbrushes and toothpaste, hand cream, bars of soap and shampoo, disposable shavers and shaving cream, men's or women's socks, hats and gloves. Please place items at the Blessed Mother's Altar this weekend Dec. 17.

Reconciliation Monday

Advent is a time to prepare ourselves spiritually to receive Christ. Throughout the Archdiocese, confessions will be heard this day.

Our Schedule is as follows:

Confessions - Monday, December 18th

11:00 a.m. - 12:00 Noon

4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Why Advent?

Advent is a time of warning, a time of preparation, a time of urgency. It is when the Church wants us to ask, "What do I need to do to be ready to greet the Lord?" We know Jesus will come at our death and he will come at the end of time. The season of Advent encourages us to make the necessary preparations so we can joyfully greet Jesus whenever we meet him next.

"Growing in Faith"

Best Advent Ever

Rediscover the joy in the season with Best Advent Ever, a free email program that will help you prepare for Christmas in a way that will allow you to have a Christmas as memorable and joyful as when you were a child. You will receive short inspirational videos, practical tips and real-life stories of hope. Sign up at dynamiccatholic.com/advent17.

Parish Registration/Update

Name: _____

Street: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone _____

Cell Phone _____

Email: _____

New Registration Change of Address

Moving out of Parish

Please return to the Rectory.

Sts. Peter and Paul and St. Ursula Church
CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

Reconciliation Monday
Confessions

Monday, December 18th
11:00 a.m. - 12:00 Noon
4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Saturday, December 23rd
11:00 a.m. - 12:00 Noon
4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Additional Confession time available. Please call the Rectory.

MASS SCHEDULE

Sunday, December 24th - Regular Mass Schedule

Saturday Vigil - 5:00 p.m.

8:00 a.m., 9:30 a.m., 11:00 a.m. & 12:30 p.m.

Christmas Eve Masses

4:30 p.m. - Half hour of Christmas Carols

5:00 p.m. - Christmas Vigil Mass

9:30 p.m. - Half hour of Christmas Carols

10:00 p.m. - Christmas Vigil Mass

Christmas Day - Monday, December 25th

8:00 a.m., 9:30 a.m., 11:00 a.m. & 12:30 p.m.

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

Sunday, December 31st - Regular Mass Schedule

Saturday Vigil - 5:00 p.m.

8:00 a.m., 9:30 a.m., 11:00 a.m. & 12:30 pm

New Year's Eve Mass - 5:00 p.m.

New Year's Day, January 1, 2018

8:00 a.m. & 12:00 noon